



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

I had the opportunity to see firsthand the devastation that was wrought by Hurricane Ida when I visited Louisiana shortly after the storm made landfall. I traveled from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to survey the damage to communications and speak to people in the areas most affected by the storm. When I returned to Washington, I held a Disaster Communications Field Hearing in order to learn more about the gaps in our emergency alerting capabilities and the steps we can take to better prepare for the next storm.

I am proud to say we are making progress on that effort. At the Federal Communications Commission, we have adopted new rules to improve the resiliency of our wireless networks. These changes will help restore communications service faster, speed up emergency response, and keep more people connected. We have also taken action to improve emergency alerting capabilities, including partnering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on a nationwide test; establishing new partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to gather more granular information about WEA performance; and initiating rulemakings that would require wireless providers to publicly report on WEA's reliability, speed, and accuracy, and also put in place practices to protect it from security threats.

In your letter, you ask whether the Commission has had discussions regarding multilingual alerting with industry stakeholders. You also ask about the steps the Commission has taken to reach the growing, non-English and non-Spanish speaking minority groups, the technical feasibility of expanding WEA languages beyond English and Spanish, and the challenges that industry faced implementing the Spanish language requirement.

At the outset, it is important to note that WEA was created in the Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN) Act of 2006 as a voluntary program. In other words, no wireless carrier is required to offer WEA. At the same time, since the passage of this law, mobile devices and wireless alerts have become increasingly important for disseminating information during a crisis.

While I would welcome any efforts to update this law, I want you to know that under my leadership we have worked to ensure the Commission can use it to full effect. This is particularly true when it comes to multilingual alerting. Last month, I sent letters to the nine largest wireless carriers that

participate in WEA asking them what they can do right now to ensure that WEA messages are accessible to as many language communities as possible. The letters ask about current practices as well as the state of machine translation technologies that could be used in emergency communications for translating alert messages into the most commonly spoken languages in the United States. In addition, the letters ask about whether and how mobile devices could receive a signal to display pre-installed, pre-scripted WEA alerts in the default language selected by the user. The responses we have received are publicly available online in our WEA docket (PS Docket No. 15-94), and I will incorporate what we learn in a new rulemaking to advance the Commission's work on multilingual alerting.

This rulemaking will be a significant milestone in our efforts to advance multilingual alerts. But it is important to note that other complementary efforts to improve the reach of alert messages and expand the availability of critical information in additional languages are ongoing. To this end, I have charged the Commission's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) to study ways to improve the effectiveness of the presentation of WEA alert messages by using capabilities from other mobile device applications and firmware. Mobile devices often contain a suite of features that, if leveraged in the WEA context, could make the emergency information that WEA messages contain more accessible to more individuals, including features to better support non-English and non-Spanish speakers. I look forward to reading CSRIC's final report, which is expected later this month.

In the meantime, we continue to engage non-English and non-Spanish speaking minority groups through outreach and other efforts. For example, the Commission has presented to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders' Language Access Subcommittee about its approach to multilingual alerting for the Emergency Alert System and WEA. In addition, the FCC routinely reaches out to local television and radio stations broadcasting in languages other than English as part of its preparation for storms and other events that may affect the nation's communications systems. We share emergency communications tips developed in partnership with FEMA in Spanish, Korean, Traditional Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, French, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese, along with audio PSAs in each language. The Commission also has produced printed versions of tips in Hmong and other languages to further support communities that may benefit from in-language information. Consumer information about WEA, along with all our other telecommunications consumer guides, are also made available in Korean, Traditional Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese on the FCC's website.

With respect to existing challenges, per your request I want to note some concerns that have been raised by industry stakeholders in the record before the agency. Right now, initiation of the alert message—and the content of the alert message—is dependent upon the more than 1600 federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities across the country that are authorized by FEMA to send alerts, who are commonly referred to as alert originators. Stakeholders have expressed concern that alert originators may lack resources to send alerts in languages other than English and Spanish. To help address this challenge, the FCC has provided guidance to assist alert originators in sending non-English alerts and non-Spanish alerts, including best practices for multilingual alerting developed by the FCC's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. The FCC also conducted a workshop in 2019 to promote the use of multilingual emergency alerting.

In addition, we understand that FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)—which serves as the federally administered alerting gateway through which wireless providers access WEA messages—currently does not support alerts that use non-Roman characters. Today, if an alert originator attempted to send an alert using non-Roman characters, IPAWS would reject the alert. While I defer to FEMA on any specific challenges it may face in upgrading IPAWS to support non-Roman characters, it should be noted FEMA was successful in upgrading IPAWS to support the transmission of alerts in Spanish after we required wireless providers to support those alerts on their own networks.

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I hope the above is helpful. Please let me know if you have any further questions. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make WEA more accessible to non-English and non-Spanish-speaking communities.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Grace Meng  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meng:

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

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I had the opportunity to see firsthand the devastation that was wrought by Hurricane Ida when I visited Louisiana shortly after the storm made landfall. I traveled from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to survey the damage to communications and speak to people in the areas most affected by the storm. When I returned to Washington, I held a Disaster Communications Field Hearing in order to learn more about the gaps in our emergency alerting capabilities and the steps we can take to better prepare for the next storm.

I am proud to say we are making progress on that effort. At the Federal Communications Commission, we have adopted new rules to improve the resiliency of our wireless networks. These changes will help restore communications service faster, speed up emergency response, and keep more people connected. We have also taken action to improve emergency alerting capabilities, including partnering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on a nationwide test; establishing new partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to gather more granular information about WEA performance; and initiating rulemakings that would require wireless providers to publicly report on WEA's reliability, speed, and accuracy, and also put in place practices to protect it from security threats.

In your letter, you ask whether the Commission has had discussions regarding multilingual alerting with industry stakeholders. You also ask about the steps the Commission has taken to reach the growing, non-English and non-Spanish speaking minority groups, the technical feasibility of expanding WEA languages beyond English and Spanish, and the challenges that industry faced implementing the Spanish language requirement.

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participate in WEA asking them what they can do right now to ensure that WEA messages are accessible to as many language communities as possible. The letters ask about current practices as well as the state of machine translation technologies that could be used in emergency communications for translating alert messages into the most commonly spoken languages in the United States. In addition, the letters ask about whether and how mobile devices could receive a signal to display pre-installed, pre-scripted WEA alerts in the default language selected by the user. The responses we have received are publicly available online in our WEA docket (PS Docket No. 15-94), and I will incorporate what we learn in a new rulemaking to advance the Commission's work on multilingual alerting.

This rulemaking will be a significant milestone in our efforts to advance multilingual alerts. But it is important to note that other complementary efforts to improve the reach of alert messages and expand the availability of critical information in additional languages are ongoing. To this end, I have charged the Commission's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) to study ways to improve the effectiveness of the presentation of WEA alert messages by using capabilities from other mobile device applications and firmware. Mobile devices often contain a suite of features that, if leveraged in the WEA context, could make the emergency information that WEA messages contain more accessible to more individuals, including features to better support non-English and non-Spanish speakers. I look forward to reading CSRIC's final report, which is expected later this month.

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In addition, we understand that FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)—which serves as the federally administered alerting gateway through which wireless providers access WEA messages—currently does not support alerts that use non-Roman characters. Today, if an alert originator attempted to send an alert using non-Roman characters, IPAWS would reject the alert. While I defer to FEMA on any specific challenges it may face in upgrading IPAWS to support non-Roman characters, it should be noted FEMA was successful in upgrading IPAWS to support the transmission of alerts in Spanish after we required wireless providers to support those alerts on their own networks.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2331 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2310 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meeks:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senate  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jasmine Crockett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1616 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crockett:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Norton:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Robert Menendez, Sr.  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez, Sr.:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2302 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jon Ossoff  
United States Senate  
455 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2132 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nadler:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Katie Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2346 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Josh Harder  
U.S. House of Representatives  
209 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Harder:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Juan C. Vargas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Vargas:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Ed Case  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Case:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jamaal Bowman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
345 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bowman:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Nanette Barragan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Barragan:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Strickland:

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tokuda:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Suzan DelBene  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DelBene:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Goldman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
245 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Goldman:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Sara Jacobs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jim Costa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2081 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costa:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2408 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding language accessibility in the nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. I recognize that natural disasters do not affect all communities equally. Hurricane Ida, for instance, demonstrated that in addition to the challenges presented by the storm itself, there are challenges that arise out of language barriers that can limit the effectiveness of safety information and outreach. For that reason, I share your belief that our emergency alerting systems need to do more to deliver essential warnings in the language that is most likely to reach those in the communities who need this information most. After all, having accurate facts in a disaster can help save lives.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Marc Veasey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2348 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Veasey:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Mark Takano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2078 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mullin:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jesús "Chuy" Garcia  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1519 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garcia:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
506 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Susie Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
365 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lee:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Andy Kim  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2444 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kim:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

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U.S. House of Representatives  
2423 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Lizzie Pannill Fletcher  
U.S. House of Representatives  
346 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Connolly:

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